

STATE OF MICHIGAN



JOHN ENGLER, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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~~VERNICE DAVIS ANTHONY, M.D., Director~~
James K. Haveman, Jr., Acting Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 1, 1996

TO: Water Well Drilling Contractors
Local Health Departments
Attn: Directors of Environmental Health
Staff Sanitarians

FROM: Michael S. Gaber, Chief
Well Construction Unit
Division of Water Supply

SUBJECT: Interpretation of GWQC Rule 111 - Water Supply System Upgrading

The Michigan Department of Public Health has been requested to interpret R 325.1611 of the Groundwater Quality Control Rules, as it relates to extensive changes made to the "Water Supply System" and existing pressure tanks. This memo is issued to clarify regulatory intent and promote uniform statewide interpretation of the well and pump code.

R 325.1611, Rule 111(1) states: "When extensive changes or repairs are made to a water supply system that was constructed before the effective date of these amendatory rules, the changes or repairs shall be in compliance with the provisions of these rules unless a deviation is issued pursuant to the provisions of R 325.1613. Extensive changes include replacing the entire casing, removing a casing from the ground, or changing aquifers."

The pressure tank is part of the water supply system. Therefore, when extensive changes or repairs are made to a well, the existing pressure tank shall be brought into compliance with the code. When drilling a replacement well, the existing pressure tank and sample tap shall be in an approved location as described in R 325.1656, Rule 156. Replacing only a pressure tank is a minor repair and does not require upgrading. If the defective pressure tank is located in a well pit, the contractor should recommend to the owner that the replacement tank be moved to a location approved under Rule 156.

If you have any questions, please contact either Ron Holben at (517) 335-8329 or myself at (517) 335-8304.

MSG:ckh

cc: Ground Water Advisory Committee
Michigan Ground Water Association
Division of Water Supply, MDPH
Upper Peninsula Office, MDPH
Division of Environmental Health, MDPH

